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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC 1. Border Guard Battalion in Dolni Zandov
2. 18th Infantry Regiment in Tachov 25X1A

EVALUATION F - 2 PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE OF CONTENT prior to 15 January 1951

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1A DATE PREPARED 11 April 1951

REFERENCES [REDACTED] 25X1A

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - Standard Manpower Questionnaire

REMARKS [REDACTED]

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Border guard battalion in Dolni Zandov.

1. Prior to 15 January 1951, the border guard battalion in Dolni Zandov (N 51/P 46), subordinate to a border guard brigade commanded by SNB Captain Hromadka, (fnu), was located in Plana (N 50/P 55). Other units subordinate to the brigade included one battalion in Chodova Plana (N 50/P 55) and one battalion in Marianske Lazne (N 50/P 56). (1)
2. The battalion in Dolni Zandov was organized into 5 companies of about 40 soldiers each, located in Oldrichov (Ulrichsgruen) (N 50/P 46), Dylen (Tilbenberg, about 3 km southeast of Oldrichov), Mohelno (Neumugl) (N 50/P 45), Slatina (Lohaeuser) (N 50/P 45), and Tri Sekery (Dreihacken) (N 50/P 45). The company in Dylen had Utvar No 4151. The battalion headquarters in Dolni Zandov was in a four-story school building south of the town and in another building constructed next to the school in 1950. The companies in Oldrichov, Dylen and Mohelno were quartered in wooden barracks.
3. SNB Lieutenant Kovarik, (fnu), was battalion commander and Lieutenant Baltizar, (fnu), deputy commander. Each company had Czech model 26 light machine guns, one model 37 heavy machine gun, and models 43-A and 43-B submachine guns. The soldiers wore uniforms with red brassards. A new uniform with green brassards and collar patches with a dog-head emblem was being prepared. (2)
4. From 11 October to 23 December 1950, border guard training for about 700 soldiers, mostly recruits, from companies of the II Bn of the 18th Inf Regt, was given in Plana. The course included field training, arms training, anti-partisan tactics, checking of persons and motor vehicles, and border guard duties.
5. The border sector of the company in Dylen, which extended for about 3 km, was controlled by a patrol of two or three soldiers who occasionally had a trained dog with them. In addition, there were 11 fixed guard posts at irregular intervals in the company sector. The patrols were relieved either at the quarters or at various predetermined points in the border sector.

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In case of alarm, the company was to form a circle around its quarters and dispatch scouts toward the border. In case of an enemy attack, the quarters were to be held until the arrival of reinforcements.

6. Officers stated that pillboxes for machine guns, and fire lanes would be constructed in the woods along the border at 1 km intervals in the summer of 1951. All roads had been prepared for immediate construction of abatis. AT ditches were also to be dug.

18th Inf Regt in Tachov.

7. Prior to mid-October 1950, the 18th Inf Regt, Utvar No 1102, stationed in Tachov (N 50/P 54), was subordinate to the 11th Inf Div, commanded by General Frantisek Patara and located in Pilsen (N 50/L 04). Elements of the regiment in Stribro (N 50/P 74) were transferred to Bor (N 50/P 63) on 10 October 1950. The regimental headquarters remained in Stribro until December 1950, when it moved to Tachov. The II Bn was transferred from Plana to Bor on 11 October 1950. Thus the regimental headquarters units, the I Bn and the replacement battalion were stationed in Tachov, and the II and III Bns in Bor. (3)
8. Prior to September 1950, Colonel Suchomel, (fnu), was the commanding officer of the regiment. He was succeeded by Lieutenant Colonel Palecek, (fnu). Other officers of the regiment included Major Skala, (fnu), political officer; Staff Captain Ferdinand Polok, chief of staff, and Major Zahradnik, (fnu), OZ officers; Staff Captain Heckl, (fnu), commanding officer of I Bn; Staff Captain Picek, (fnu), commanding officer of II Bn; Lieutenant Colonel Skrbek, (fnu), commanding officer of III Bn; and Staff Captain Cech, (fnu), commanding officer of the 11th and 12th Cos. (4)
9. The regimental headquarters units consisted of a headquarters company with a military band, a reconnaissance company of about 100 soldiers, a technical company, a submachine gun company of about 100 soldiers, and two artillery and two mortar units, each numbering about 30 EM. The I Bn was organized into the 1st and 2d Inf Cos, the 3d SMG Co, the 4th Hvy MG Co and the 5th Hvy Wpn Co. The II and III Bn had the same organization. The replacement battalion consisted of two sharpshooters' companies, one submachine gun company, one heavy machine gun company and one heavy weapons company. After the arrival of recruits, the strength of companies assigned to the battalions averaged 100 to 120 soldiers. (5)
10. The equipment included German model 98-N rifles and telescopic-sight rifles, Czech models 48-A and 48-B submachine guns, model 26 light machine guns and model 37 heavy machine guns, and Soviet motorized 45-mm and 76.2-mm guns, 82-mm and 120-mm mortars. Soldiers stated that the horse-drawn vehicles were replaced in December 1950 by 40 Tatra and Studobaker trucks. In addition, the regiment had about 20 passenger cars, 4 jeeps and about 20 motorcycles. (6)
11. The 18th Inf Regt participated in maneuvers conducted in the Kaiserwald in July 1950. An infantry and an artillery unit from Domazlice (N 50/P 70), infantry from Cheb (N 50/P 37) and Marianske Lazne, and T-34 tanks were also observed. Seven Soviet officers were seen during the maneuvers.
12. Some of the NCO-school students were detached to the reserve officers' school in Milovice (O 51/G 00) in March 1951. All graduates from senior high schools were barred from further officer's training at the end of the course of instruction. Since this curtailed the number of officer candidates, a substitute course was initiated in Plana from 23 September to 23 October 1950.

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The course was attended by 30 NCO candidates who were to be promoted to junior lieutenants after six months.

13. It was announced in May 1950 that the regiment would move to the Rozvadov (Rosshaupt) (N 50/P 43)-Prinda (N 50/P 53) area in case of mobilization. In such an event, the tractor pools in the border zone were ordered to furnish the regiment with about 100 tractors and trucks.
14. In Bor, the former castle, the Sokol Building (Sokolovna), the cloister and two three-story school buildings near the railroad station were used as military quarters.
15. A barracks installation of about 12 one-story stone buildings was located on the southern perimeter of Marianske Lazne. Some two-story buildings were allegedly added to the installation in 1950.

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Comments.

- (1) The border brigade in Plana controls portions of the border areas formerly assigned to the former SNB border guard battalions in Pilsen and Karlovy Vary. The brigade is organized the same as the brigades in Cheb and Volary. 25X1A
- (2) The introduction of green service color in the Czech guard units seems probable, since the border troops of the U.S.S.R. and all Soviet-bloc countries wear green service color.
- (3) The report confirms previous information that the 18th Inf Regt moved from Stribro to Tachov. 25X1A
- (4) In comparison with the last report, there have been basic changes in officer personnel, which again proves that there is a continuous turnover in the Czechoslovakian officer corps. Such changes have a poor effect on overall efficiency and morale.
- (5) Some statements on the organization differ from previous data. Especially, the statements on the organization of the replacement battalion and the organic assignment of submachine gun companies to the battalions are doubted.
- (6) No confirmatory information on the motorization of the regiment has been received. The number of motor vehicles mentioned in the present report is insufficient for complete motorization of the unit.

1 Annex: 1 - Standard Manpower Questionnaire.

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